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## Little Golden Books makes stop at Keshena Headstart *Let the Traditional games begin!*

By Liona May, MNN Reporter

On Thursday, March 11th, 1999, Menominee children received a pleasant surprise when Little Golden Books of New York presented a donation of 400 children's books to all three Headstart programs



MNN photo/Yvonne M. Kaquatosh

The children laughed and joined in on sound effects as Menominee Tribal Chairman Apesanhkwat read 'The Pokey Little Puppy' story to them.

here on the Menominee reservation.

The Delores K. Boyd Headstart center was one of only four stops in the state of Wisconsin. Children from the Neopit, and South Branch centers joined their classmates in Keshena to hear the story of "The Pokey Little Puppy".

The children were fortunate to hear two versions of the story.

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HEADSTART



MNN photo/Mike Wilber

Menominee Indian High School's Language & Culture class held a traditional Menominee games event on March 5. Above, 'snow snake' competitors await their turn to slide the sticks across the snow for distance. Story and photos on page 15.

## Washinawatok fondly remembered by colleagues

By Yvonne M. Kaquatosh  
MNN Editor

Official confirmation on the deaths of Indian activists Ingrid Washinawatok and Lahe'ena'e Gay and environmentalist Terence Freitas sent shock waves

throughout the country.

The disbelief that a tragedy of this magnitude would affect this small reservation community came to a horrific realization when reports of Washinawatok's death was confirmed on Friday, March 5, 1999.

It was last reported in the Menominee Nation News that the three Americans were kidnapped by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, rebels in remote northeastern Colombia on February 25.

The trio were invited by the Native

peoples of Colombia known as the U'wa tribe to assist them with an educational and cultural preservation program for their children. They had spent a week on the U'wa reservation under the auspices of the Hawaii-based Pacific Cultural Conservancy International.

Colleagues gathered at a press conference on Friday March 12 to mourn the loss of their dear friend and express their sympathies to the family as well as their anger towards those responsible "for this reprehensible act," said Bill Simmons of the International Indian

Treaty Council. "Our hearts and prayers go out to the families, friends and co-workers of these beloved individuals. They were, to the end of their lives, valiant warriors for peace, human rights and protection of the natural world," he added.

Outrage was also vented towards the State Department for the delayed return of her remains. U. S. Representative Mark Green expressed his concerns on behalf of the family and their belief in a

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MNN photo/Yvonne M. Kaquatosh

Left, Aggie Williams and Lisa Bellanger of the Indigenous Women's Network, comfort one another at a press conference where friends and colleagues gathered to remember Ingrid.

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## HEADSTART:

Both Menominee Tribal Chairman Apesanahkwat and a cast member from Little Golden Books, read the story separately.

The children welcomed the Chairman with a big 'Poso' and sang 'The Poso Song'. He then read one version of the story, that included sound effects. The children, some donning puppy ears for the occasion, watched and listened intensely, as our chairman interpreted some Menominee Language into the story. The children laughed and joined in on sound effects as he read. After finishing the story, Apesanahkwat was presented gifts from headstart director, Amy Waukau, which was the Headstart's way of showing thanks to him for reading the story.

Cast members from the Little Golden Books Company, then read a different version of the story, after introducing the star of the story, 'The Poky Little Puppy', who acted out the story as it was being told. The cast members then had a sing-a-long with the children.

The story of 'The Poky Little Puppy', was chosen because it has been the best selling children's book ever. The story was first published by Little Golden Books back in 1942. The crew made 16 stops nationwide. Other stops in Wisconsin included Racine, The Children's Hospital of Milwaukee, and the Green Bay Public School.

Each child was given a copy of the story. Cast and crew members were also presented with a gift bag, each consisting of a tape of the Menominee Nation Pow-wow, a dreamcatcher, and a tobacco and cedar tie. A spokesman from Golden Books stated that the Headstart Center was well decorated and was one of the best received stops they've made so far. In fact, they were so impressed that a request was made to have some of the banners that were made for the special occasion, be sent to their headquarters in New York to be put on display. Some cast members were given souvenir artwork from the children which consisted of dog bones made out of construction paper that the children made and wore around their necks.

## WASHINOWATOK:

traditional Menominee burial. In a letter sent to the Honorable Thomas R. Pickering, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Mr. Green said, "The delayed return of Ms. Washinawatok's remains raises questions regarding the handling of this matter and the sensitivity of the Department of State to the special circumstances surrounding the deceased's culture and religious traditions." He also requested a response in writing, detailing the events of the week, explaining the reasons the Department of State failed to heed repeated pleas for the speedy return of her remains.

Ann Rockefeller, president of the Fund of the Four Directions (FFD) focused on Ingrid's work ethics stating that, "Ingrid led the work of the Fund, as she did in her life, guided by three fundamental questions: Are we being respectful? Is this work being done in a good way? How will this work affect those around me and how will it effect the next seven generations? She was known and greatly loved by all she worked with. She saw and responded to each person's humanity. She respected all life," she added. In closing, she said, "The most appropriate way for us to honor Ingrid, Lahe and Terrance is to continue our work, and we stand here today to reaffirm our commitment to do so."

Members of the Indigenous Women's Network came forward to voice their thoughts as well. With their heads bowed, members stood behind Lisa Bellanger, as she spoke on behalf of the group. "We are calling for a prompt international investigation into actions of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), which went in record on March 10, 1999 for taking responsibility for the March 4, 1999 murders of Washinawatok, Gay, and Freitas. As part of the investigation, she added, "We are also requesting the investigation include the roles of the Colombian military and allied paramilitaries, Occidental Petroleum, and the US State Department whose historical and current actions may have contributed to the violence in Colombia as well as specific actions that contributed to these deaths." A demand for an immediate end to all US assistance to the Colombian military and security forces, including training and drug eradication efforts was also addressed.

Nancy Lorence conveyed a message from the Center for Human Rights Legal Action in Guatemala, on behalf of Francisco Cali. "A number of us who work at the center denounce the grave violations of human rights against the population in general and specifically against the human rights of Indigenous peoples."

Colleagues and friends traveled from near and far across the United States, Canada and Foreign countries to pay their respects to her family. AIM members were also on site to assist the family. Menominee tribal members who never had the opportunity to meet this remarkable woman were touched by her accomplishments and all that she stood for.

A traditional Big Drum Ceremony was held on Saturday, March 13, at the Zoar Ceremonial Hall.

A memorial has been established in her name.